

IC 20-12-21.7

Chapter 21.7. Minority Teacher Scholarships

IC 20-12-21.7-1

"Commission"

Sec. 1. As used in this chapter, "commission" refers to the state student assistance commission established under IC 20-12-21-4.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-2

"Eligible institution of higher learning"

Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "eligible institution of higher learning" means a public or private college or university that offers a student the opportunity to acquire at least a baccalaureate degree in the field of education.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-3

"Fund"

Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "fund" refers to the minority teacher or special education services scholarship fund established under section 5 of this chapter.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.1; P.L.168-1991, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-4

"Minority"

Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "minority" means an individual identified as black or Hispanic.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-5

Purpose of establishment

Sec. 5. The minority teacher or special education services scholarship fund is established:

- (1) as the fund pertains to minority teachers:
 - (A) to encourage and promote qualified minority individuals to pursue a career in teaching in accredited schools in Indiana;
 - (B) to enhance the number of individuals who may serve as role models for the minority students in Indiana; and
 - (C) in recognition of the fact that there is a shortage of minority teachers teaching in accredited schools of Indiana; and
- (2) as the fund pertains to special education services:
 - (A) to encourage and promote qualified individuals to pursue a career in:
 - (i) teaching special education in accredited schools in Indiana; or
 - (ii) practicing occupational or physical therapy in

accredited schools in Indiana, in vocational rehabilitation centers under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1), or in community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities centers under IC 12-29 (except IC 12-29-3-6) as part of the special education program; and
(B) in recognition of the fact that there is a shortage of individuals who teach special education and who provide certain other special education services in accredited schools in Indiana.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.2; P.L.168-1991, SEC.2; P.L.2-1992, SEC.728; P.L.64-2002, SEC.5.

IC 20-12-21.7-6

Administration of fund

Sec. 6. (a) The commission shall administer the fund.

(b) The expenses of administering the fund shall be paid from money in the fund.

(c) The treasurer of state shall invest the money in the fund not currently needed to meet the obligations of the fund in the same manner as other public funds may be invested.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-7

Scholarships

Sec. 7. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c), the money in the fund shall be used to provide annual scholarships to minority students who qualify under section 9(a) of this chapter or individuals who qualify under section 9.1(a) of this chapter in an amount that is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:

(1) The balance of the student's total cost in attending the eligible institution for the academic year.

(2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(b) Subject to section 8(c) of this chapter, each scholarship awarded under subsection (a) or subsection (c) is renewable under section 9(b) of this chapter or under section 9.1(b) of this chapter, whichever applies, for a total scholarship award that does not exceed eight (8) semesters (or its equivalent).

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if a minority student qualifies under section 9(a) of this chapter and demonstrates to the commission financial need in an amount greater than described in subsection (a), the annual scholarship that the minority student may receive is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:

(1) The balance of the student's total cost in attending the eligible institution for the academic year.

(2) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.3; P.L.168-1991, SEC.3.

IC 20-12-21.7-8

Eligibility information; allocation of money; determination of recipients; restrictions on funds

Sec. 8. (a) The commission for higher education under IC 20-12-0.5 shall provide the commission with the most recent information concerning:

- (1) the number of minority students enrolled at each eligible institution; and
- (2) the number of individuals who are:
 - (A) enrolled at each eligible institution; and
 - (B) pursuing a course of study that would enable the student, upon graduation, to be:
 - (i) licensed to teach special education in an accredited school; or
 - (ii) certified to practice occupational therapy or licensed to practice physical therapy in an accredited school, in a vocational rehabilitation center under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1), or in a community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities center under IC 12-29 as part of the special education program.

(b) The commission shall allocate the available money from the fund to each eligible institution in proportion to the number of minority students enrolled at each eligible institution as described in subsection (a) based upon the information received by the commission under subsection (a).

(c) Each eligible institution shall determine the scholarship recipients under this chapter:

- (1) based upon the criteria set forth in section 9 of this chapter or section 9.1 of this chapter, whichever applies, and the rules adopted by the commission under section 12 of this chapter; and
- (2) with a priority on granting scholarships in the following order:
 - (A) Minority students seeking a renewal scholarship.
 - (B) Newly enrolling minority students.
 - (C) Special education services students seeking a renewal scholarship.
 - (D) Newly enrolling special education services students.

However, the eligible institution may not grant a scholarship renewal to a student for an academic year that ends later than six (6) years after the date the student received the initial scholarship under this chapter.

(d) Any funds that:

- (1) are allocated to an eligible institution; and
- (2) are not utilized for scholarships under this chapter;

shall be returned to the commission for reallocation by the commission to any other eligible institution in need of additional funds.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.4; P.L.168-1991, SEC.4; P.L.2-1992, SEC.729; P.L.160-1997, SEC.1; P.L.64-2002, SEC.6.

IC 20-12-21.7-9

Scholarship qualifications; minority students

Sec. 9. (a) To initially qualify for a scholarship from the fund, a minority student must:

- (1) be admitted to an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student or already attend an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student;
- (2) intend to pursue or, in the case of a student who is already attending an eligible institution of higher learning, pursue a course of study that would enable the student, upon graduation, to teach in an accredited school in Indiana;
- (3) agree, in writing, to teach in an accredited school in Indiana at least three (3) years of the first five (5) years following that student's certification as a teacher; and
- (4) meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission.

(b) To qualify for a scholarship renewal from the fund, a minority student must:

- (1) comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (a); and
- (2) maintain at least the cumulative grade point average:
 - (A) that is required by an eligible institution for admission to the eligible institution's school of education; or
 - (B) of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale or its equivalent as established by the eligible institution if the eligible institution's school of education does not require a certain minimum cumulative grade point average.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.5.

IC 20-12-21.7-9.1

Scholarship qualifications; special education teachers and physical and occupational therapy practitioners

Sec. 9.1. (a) To initially qualify for a scholarship from the fund as the fund pertains to individuals described in section 8(a)(2) of this chapter, an individual must:

- (1) be admitted to an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student or be attending an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student;
- (2) intend to pursue or, in the case of a student who is attending an eligible institution of higher learning, pursue a course of study that would enable the student, upon graduation:
 - (A) to be licensed to teach special education in an accredited school under rules adopted by the Indiana state board of education;
 - (B) to be certified to practice occupational therapy:
 - (i) in an accredited school;
 - (ii) in a vocational rehabilitation center under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1); or
 - (iii) in a community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities center under IC 12-29 except

- IC 12-29-3-6; or
- (C) to be licensed to practice physical therapy:
- (i) in an accredited school;
 - (ii) in a vocational rehabilitation center under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1); or
 - (iii) in a community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities center under IC 12-29 except IC 12-29-3-6;
- (3) agree, in writing, to:
- (A) teach in an accredited school; or
 - (B) practice occupational therapy or physical therapy, whichever applies:
 - (i) in an accredited school in Indiana;
 - (ii) in a vocational rehabilitation center under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1); or
 - (iii) in a community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities center under IC 12-29 except IC 12-29-3-6;
- at least three (3) of the first five (5) years following the student's licensure as a teacher, certification as an occupational therapist, or licensure as a physical therapist; and
- (4) meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission.
- (b) To qualify for a scholarship renewal from the fund under this section, the individual must:
- (1) comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (a); and
 - (2) maintain at least the cumulative grade point average:
 - (A) that is required by an eligible institution for admission to the eligible institution's school of education; or
 - (B) of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale or its equivalent as established by the eligible institution if the eligible institution's school of education does not require a certain minimum cumulative grade point average.
- As added by P.L.130-1990, SEC.6. Amended by P.L.168-1991, SEC.5; P.L.2-1992, SEC.730; P.L.64-2002, SEC.7.*

IC 20-12-21.7-10

Effect of student's receipt of other scholarships or financial aid

Sec. 10. The amount of the scholarship under this chapter may not be reduced because the student receives other scholarships or forms of financial aid. In addition, unless otherwise permitted under law, the amount of any other state financial aid received by a student may not be reduced because the student receives a scholarship under this chapter.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1.

IC 20-12-21.7-11

Records; information

Sec. 11. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and accurate records in implementing the program, including the following:

- (1) Scholarships awarded under this chapter.
 - (2) The number of individuals who fulfilled the agreement described under section 9.1(a)(3) of this chapter.
 - (3) The number of individuals who did not fulfill the agreement described under section 9.1(a)(3) of this chapter.
 - (b) Each eligible institution shall provide the commission with information concerning the following:
 - (1) The awarding of scholarships under this chapter.
 - (2) The academic progress made by each recipient of a scholarship under this chapter.
 - (3) Other pertinent information requested by the commission.
- As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.7.*

IC 20-12-21.7-12

Rules

Sec. 12. The commission shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter, including rules governing the enforcement of the agreements under section 9.1(a)(3) of this chapter.

As added by P.L.141-1988, SEC.1. Amended by P.L.130-1990, SEC.8.